



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RF

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/935,521	08/23/2001	Stanley P. Dabrowski	G&C 31003.14US01	9105
22462	7590	01/14/2004		
GATES & COOPER LLP HOWARD HUGHES CENTER 6701 CENTER DRIVE WEST, SUITE 1050 LOS ANGELES, CA 90045			EXAMINER NOWLIN, APRIL A	
			ART UNIT 2876	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 01/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/935,521

Applicant(s)

DABROWSKI, STANLEY P.

Examiner

April A. Nowlin

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 19-27 and 29-38 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-10, 17, 18, 39-42, 44-48, 55 and 56 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5, 11-16, 28, 43 and 49-54 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2. 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it contains legal phraseology such as "comprises" (see lines 2, 4, 6, and 7). Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).
2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Substitute "FIG. 3" with – FIG. 3A to FIG. 3C – (see page 3, line 29).

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 28 is objected to because of the following informalities: The examiner is not sure if claim 28 should be dependent on claim 1 or claim 19. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 9, 17, 18, 39-42, 44, 46, 47, 55, and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stern (US 6,110,044).

Re claims 1-3, 39-41: Stern teaches a method of redeeming accumulated credits by dispensing multiple types of awards from a gambling unit comprising the steps of:

determining a cashout value in response to a cashout command;

recording a visible manifestation representing information comprising the cashout value on a media 106;

recording a magnetic manifestation representing the information on the media 106;

dispensing the media 106 from the first gaming machine;

wherein the magnetic manifestation of the information is continuously variable; and

wherein the visible manifestation of the information is recorded on a heat-sensitive top surface of the media 106. (See figure 2; col. 3, line 59 to col. 4, line 42; col. 5, line 11 to col. 6, line 2)

Re claims 4 and 42: Stern teaches wherein the magnetic manifestation of the information is recorded on a magnetic media 106 portion embedded between a bottom surface of the media 106 and a top surface of the media (see figure 2)

Re claims 6 and 44: Stern teaches wherein the visible manifestation and the magnetic manifestation of the information are recorded in the same area of the media 106 (see figure 2).

Re claims 8, 9, 46, and 47: Stern teaches wherein the visibly and magnetically manifested information is encrypted according to a first encryption key and wherein the first encryption key is a temporally-dependent encryption key computed in the first gaming device according to a first real time clock accessible to the first gaming device (see col. 3, lines 16-23; col. 8, lines 27-45; col. 9, lines 35-48).

Re claims 17 and 55: Stern teaches wherein the information further comprises an identification of the first gaming device (see figure 2).

Re claims 18 and 56: Stern teaches wherein the information further comprises a theft code 118 (see figure 2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 7 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stern (US 6,110,044). The teachings of Stern have been discussed above.

Stern fails to teach or fairly suggest the step of determining that one of the manifestations of the information on the media has failed to be recorded. However, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the step of determining that one of the manifestations of

the information on the media has failed to be recorded in order to make sure that the information that is needed to make the media valid is recorded before presented to a player.

8. Claims 10 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stern (US 6,110,044) in view of Saunders (US 6,280,326). The teachings of Stern have been discussed above.

Stern fails to teach or fairly suggest the steps of accepting the media in a second gaming machine; confirming the authenticity of the media; and issuing credits equivalent to the cashout value after the authenticity of the media is confirmed.

Saunders teaches a cashless method for a gaming system comprising the steps of accepting the media in a second gaming machine; confirming the authenticity of the media; and issuing credits equivalent to the cashout value after the authenticity of the media is confirmed (see col. 6, line 49 to col. 8, line 6). In view of Saunders' teaching, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the notoriously old and well known steps of accepting the media in a second gaming machine; confirming the authenticity of the media; and issuing credits equivalent to the cashout value after the authenticity of the media is confirmed to the teachings of Stern in order to provide the player with an option to continue to play on another gaming machine with the winnings of a first gaming machine so that the player doesn't have to waste time finding a cashier if he/she wishes to play on other machines.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 5, 11-16, 43, and 49-54 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
10. Claims 19-27 and 29-38 are allowable over the prior art.
11. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or fairly suggest a self-authenticating media useable in transferring credits from a first gaming machine to a second gaming machine comprising, among other things, a continuous magnetic media portion suitable for recording, playing back, and erasing a continuously variable magnetic field by a magnetic head; and wherein the magnetic media portion is substantially undetectable by reflective optical sensors and substantially detectable by densometric optical sensor.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Pat. No. 6,623,357 to Chowdhury

US Pat. No. 6,652,380 to Luciano

US Pat. No. 6,650,427 to Brooks et al

US Pat. No. 6,170,744 to Lee et al

US Pub. No. 2003/0171145 to Rowe

US Pub. No. 2003/0166412 to Marcu

US Pub. No. 2002/0160832 to Burns et al

Contact Information

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to April A. Nowlin whose telephone number is (703) 605-1219 (Note: Starting January 15 the examiner can be reached at (571) 272-2403). The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 6:30AM - 4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (703) 305-3503. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.


Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [april.nowlin@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Application/Control Number: 09/935,521
Art Unit: 2876

Page 8

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.


April A. Nowlin
January 12, 2004



THIEN M. LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER